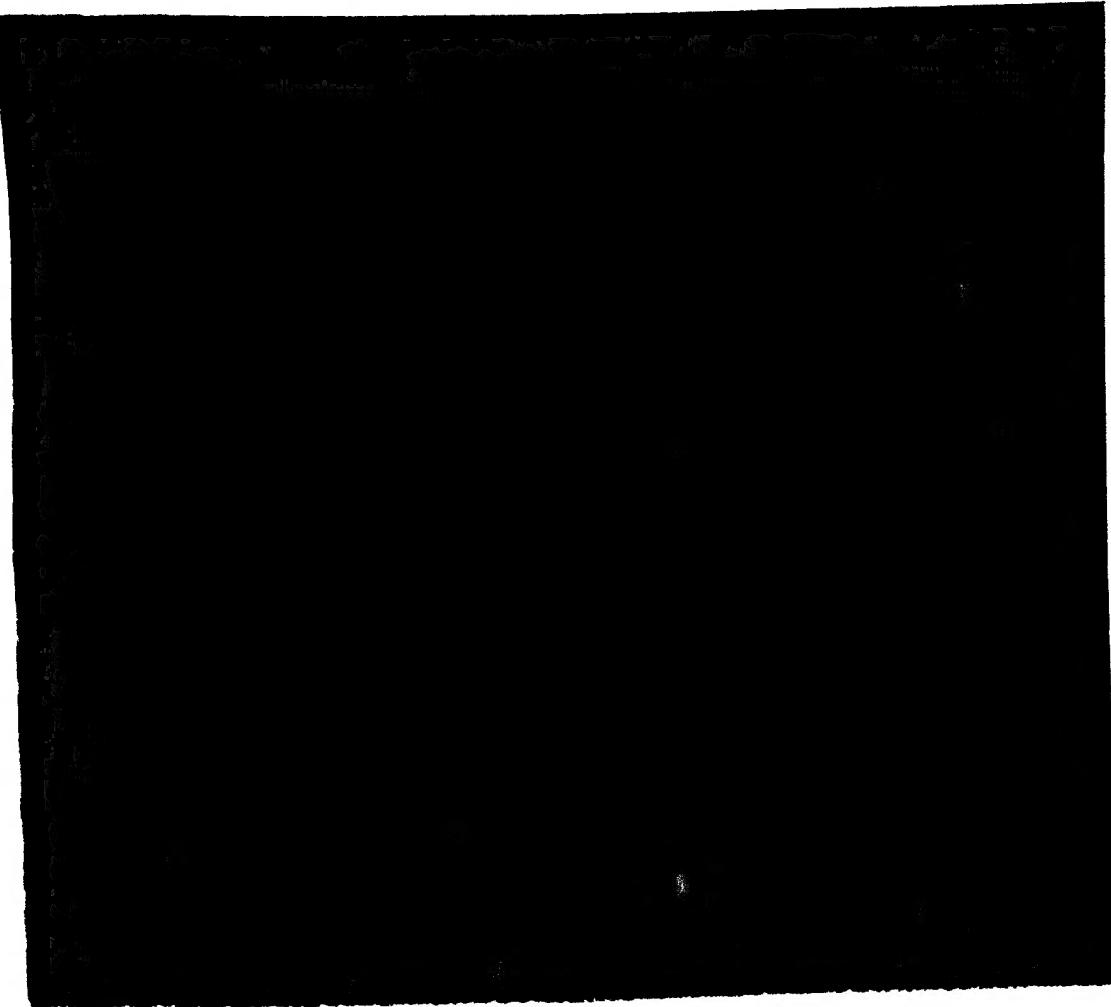


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PHILIPPINE CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE RESURGENCE OF HUK ACTIVITY

A recent wave of killings in rural areas of Luzon has caused considerable speculation in the Philippines concerning a possible resurgence of the Communist-led Huk rebellion, which posed a serious internal threat after World War II.

In mid-September, Philippine defense and military lead-

ers met to consider the implication of reports that 13 provincial murders in a two-week period were part of a Communist liquidation campaign against former Huks who had turned government informers. Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Cabal ordered a reinforcement of constabulary units on Luzon with 2,000 army troops and placed all troops on

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alert status. Since the subsequent capture of two relatively senior Huks, military leaders appear less apprehensive of a new Communist uprising.

Although this drive, like past ones, does not appear to have eliminated any major pocket of remaining Huk strength, Philippine defense leaders have given it considerable publicity. According to the American Embassy, there has been no real evidence of a Huk resurgence, although Communist responsibility for the provincial murders cannot be discounted. A Philippine security agency has recently reported that it has evidence of Communist plans to assassinate certain political leaders in Manila, including Vice President Macapagal, in order to create a political crisis during the 1961 elections.

The number of armed Huks in the Philippines is estimated at less than 300; this number could be increased by recruiting among presently passive supporters, particularly in central Luzon where abuses persist over land tenure. Some Philippine officials have noted a directive in the most recently captured Communist "political transmission" to "increasing the present armed element." The major part of the document, however, continues to emphasize nonviolent tactics and the necessity for supporting the forces of Philippine nationalism. Although the Garcia administration has recently tended to mute the anti-American overtones of its "Filipino First" programs, the Communists have had some success in exploiting this theme among the student, intellectual, and labor circles. [REDACTED]

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